IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 4, 5, 16, 18-24 and 26, and amend claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 33 in accordance with the following listing showing the status of all claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A switch device comprising a face plate and a single switch oscillator having a capacitive component, the capacitive component having a first capacitor plate arranged adjacent the face plate, the face plate preventing electrical contact between the user and the oscillator whereby an object placed adjacent the face plate acts as a second capacitor plate thereby altering ~~the~~ a frequency of the oscillator, control means being provided to sense the change in frequency and to actuate the switch in response to such a change,

wherein detection of the change in frequency of the switch oscillator is achieved within the control means by software, and

wherein the software is arranged to filter out noise and/or frequency drift.

2. (Currently Amended) A switch device according to claim 1 in which the face plate is made from electrically insulating material.

3. (Previously Presented) A switch device according to claim 1 in which the face plate is arranged so that it can be retrofit to existing switch mountings.

4-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A switch device ~~according to claim 4 in which~~ comprising a face plate and a single switch oscillator having a capacitive component, the capacitive component having a first capacitor plate arranged adjacent the face plate, the face plate preventing electrical contact between the user and the oscillator whereby an object placed adjacent the face plate acts as a second capacitor plate thereby altering a frequency of the oscillator, control means being provided to sense the change in frequency and to actuate the switch in response to such a change,

wherein the frequency from the oscillator is recalculated at fixed periods by the ~~micro controller~~ control means.

7. (Currently Amended) A switch device ~~according to claim 4 in which the software within the micro-controller~~ comprising a face plate and a single switch oscillator having a capacitive component, the capacitive component having a first capacitor plate arranged adjacent the face plate, the face plate preventing electrical contact between the user and the oscillator whereby an object placed adjacent the face plate acts as a second capacitor plate thereby altering a frequency of the oscillator, control means being provided to sense the change in frequency and to actuate the switch in response to such a change,

wherein software within the control means automatically detects ~~the~~ a frequency of ~~the~~ a mains supply to which it is connected, via an AC ~~Zero~~ zero detector circuit.

8. (Currently Amended) A switch device according to claim 7 in which the software alters ~~the~~ a firing signal to an AC trigger circuit based on the ~~mains~~ detected frequency ~~calculated~~ of the mains supply.

9-12 (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A switch device according to claim 1 in which the switching device is used to switch a light circuit and in which software and/or hardware within the light circuit provides one or more of the following functions:

a) gradual ramping up of current to the light to preserve bulb life,

b) dimmer function

c) random light switching

d) timed light switching

e) comfort light function

f) gradual lighting up for use as an alarm.

14-32 (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A switch according to claim 1 in which the switch is programmable by ~~the~~ a user.

34. (Original) A switch according to claim 33 in which the programming of the switch is effected by the user selecting a function from a list of functions and logging the selection on the switch.

35-38 (Canceled)